



Here in the Parliament holden at Westminster, the seconde day of Apryl, in the .xiii. yere of the raigne of our soueraigne Lady the Queene, there was for the reliefe of diuers pooze decayed towne, & of great multitudes of her pooze subiectes, who otherwyle were likely to perishe, or to become vnprofitable and daungerous to the common weale, among other prouided and established, one good and beneficial statute, entituled, An acte for the continuance of making of cappes. By meane of whiche statute, great numbers of idle, pooze, and impotent persons were for a season set on worke, while the awe of the sayde statute, and feare of due execution thereof continued, to the marvellous great commoditie of this Realme, and helpe of the needie, and redresse of y occupied persons, as by the experience thereof hath ben manifestly proued. And whereas neuerthelesse by litle and litle, the disobedience and wanton disorder of euyl disposed and light persons, moze regarding priuate fantasie and banter, then publique commoditie or respect of duetie, hath encreased by want of execution of the sayde lawe, whereby those good and honest subiectes that haue by meanes of the sayd statute, set to worke a great number of pooze people, are lyke to be diuened to geue ouer theyr sayde trade of making of cappes, and to sende abroade agayne into idlenesse and miserie, those multitudes that haue ben by them relieved, whereby is likely to growe great enormitie and inconuenience, yf speedie remedie therfore be not in tyme prouided. The Queenes most excellent Maiestie therfore tenderly consydering the premises, straightly chargeth and commaundeth al Iustices of assises, Iustices of peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Bayliffes, and other head officers of Cities, Borroughes, and Townes corporate, and the Lordes, Stewardes, Bayliffes, and other officers of Leetes, Lawdayes, and liberties, & al and singuler Constables, Third borroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and al other her highnesse subiectes, to whom the executyng or puttyng in vze of the same statute any way may apperteyne, that euery one of them, accordyng to his office, place, and calling, do their bettermost endeouour for the due execution of the sayde statute: and that they the sayde Bayliffes, Constables, Third borroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, and al other lyke inferiour officers, and euery of them, do euery Sunday & festiual day, make diligent vlew & searche in al Churches, Chappels, & al other places within the circuites & compasses of their offices & auctorities, for al and singuler breakers & offenders of the said statute, and without delay cause the names of al such offendours, and of the parentes, gardians, gouernours, and maisters of euery childe, seruaunt, & warde, so offendyng, together with the day and place of the offence committed, to be then written, & to be lawfully & orderly presented, at such assises, sessions, or courtes, (next after such offences) as haue auctoritie to enquire or determine the sayd offences: And that al Maiors, Sheriffes, and Bayliffes, of Cities, Borroughes, & Townes Corporate, and al lordes of Leetes, Lawdayes, and liberties, do immediatly vpon the proclamation hereof, cal before them al the sayd Constables, Third borroughes, Tithingmen, Churchwardens, inferiour Bayliffes, and al other the abouesaid inferiour officers, that shalbe vnder theyr charge of gouernment, and them, and euery of them, soorthwith in our names do straghtly charge and commaunde, that they, and euery of them, to the bettermost of theyr powers, do euery Sunday and festiual day, make such diligent vlew and searche, and suche note also of the names of al such offendours, and suche presentment of al suche offences as is abouesayde: and that al Iustices of assises, and Iustices of peace, in theyr circuites & sessions, and al Stewardes in theyr Leetes, vpon payne of her Maiesties high displeasure, omit not in any wyle fro tyme to tyme, specially to geue in charge, & cause to be enquired of al offences against the sayde statute committed, or to be committed within theyr seueral precinctes or iurisdiccions, and also do duely heare & determine the same, punishyng euery of the sayde offendours accordyng to the sayde statute: and that al the sayd lordes and owners of Leetes, and Lawdayes, do as much as in euery of them shal lye, to cause theyr Stewardes thoroughly to execute theyr office and auctoritie, accordyng to the same statute, and that vpon euery suche offence founde, both the sayde owners of Leetes, and also the rulers & cheefe gouernours of euery Citie, Borrough, Towne, or Hamlet, where any such offence shalbe tryed and founde, shal do theyr bettermost endeouour by the lawe to recouer, haue, and obtayne of euery suche offendour, al the penalties to them, or any of them, by the sayde statute forseypted, or to be forseypted.

God saue the Queene.

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Cum priuilegio Regie Maicstatis.